THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 15th July 1953.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, Madras, at half-past nine of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—CONDOLENCE RESOLUTION.

MR. SPEAKER :—" It is my painful duty to inform the House of the death of an ex-Minister Sri S. Muthia Mudaliar. The Leader. of the House will move the motion."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, I move—

' *That the House places on record its sense of sorrow at the demise of Sri S. Muthia Mudaliar who was a Member of this House and of Government in this State.*'

We should have done it yesterday itself, but we were disturbed by a number of proceedings."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" I beg to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the Hon. the Chief Minister."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I know Mr. Muthia Mudaliar very well. He was a Minister here for some time and he took active part in social work, viz., ameliorative work for the Harijans. By way of passing the resolution, and as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, hon. Members will stand in their places for two minutes."

The resolution was carried *nem. con.* all the Members of the Assembly standing in their places for two minutes.

II.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Allotment of rice to a merchant in Salem.

* 464-A *Q.*—SRI C. RAJAM RAMASAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that 2,000 tons of broken rice have been preferentially allotted to a merchant in Salem and if so, the reasons for the same?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, but for the short-notice question by my hon. Friend, I myself wanted to make a statement on the floor of this Assembly refuting certain allegations made in a Tamil Weekly called ' Janayugam ' regarding an alleged issue of pemit to import broken rice. I am thankful to my hon. Friend for having given me this opportunity to clear the matter. I may straightaway say that the allegations made in that paper are totally incorrect and baseless. This Government merely forwarded the applications of two merchants of Salem, one to the Orissa Government in March last for the import of 500 tons of broken rice and the other to the Madhya Pradesh Government in